

LEVERAGED BATON CAP

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The present invention concerns batons for use by police or security personnel. More particularly the present invention concerns an end cap for use in a baton. The end cap provides a better grip and increased leverage by lowering the pivot point, thus increasing the effective swing arm. Thus, a smaller, more easily portable baton with the present end cap can emulate the effective swing of a larger baton.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] Batons, as used by security forces, police officers and other law enforcement personnel, are typically steel hollow-core retractable devices, such as the baton shown in U.S. Patent Nos. 5,110,375, 5,149,092, 5,348,297, 5,356,139, 5,645,276, 5,919,093 and others, assigned to Armament Systems and Procedures, Inc., the assignee of the present invention. These batons are constructed such that one segment of the baton is retractable within the next adjacent segment until all of the segments are retracted into an outer segment, for storage. These batons are extremely popular among law enforcement and security personnel, as over two million such batons have been reported to have been sold. Further, the popularity of these batons can be understood because such batons, as made by the assignee, are well made, sturdy, extremely reliable, and compact, and are easily used, stored and carried. Batons having expandable lengths of 21 inches and 26 inches are among the most popular batons with law enforcement and security personnel.

[0003] As law enforcement and security personnel have come to carry more numerous pieces of equipment, such as batons, telephones, handcuffs, walkie-talkies, pepper spray devices,

disposable restraints, semi-automatic pistols, extra magazines and the like, which assist them in maintaining the peace, it has become desirable to reduce the size and weight of such devices, and in particular, batons. Further, in some situations, such as those faced by undercover officers and/or protective agents (such as U.S. Secret Service Agents), such equipment must be made smaller so that they can be concealed.

[0004] One item that can be purchased in various sizes (lengths) is the baton. It has been found that a smaller baton, for example, batons having expandable lengths of 16 inches or 21 inches, are more convenient to carry than full sized batons, such as 26 and 31 inch expandable batons. While it is easier to carry such smaller batons, they typically do not have the same impact potential of a larger baton. That is, because they form a smaller lever arm when swung, they require a more vigorous swing to produce an effective strike.

[0005] In the use of such batons, typically the user holds the baton squarely by the outer most segment, or the handle, and using a quick wrist action causes the baton to extend to its full length. The baton is then swung as needed while the user holds the outer tubular section or handle. Typically, the baton is held with the hand centered on the "grip" portion, and the little, or "pinky" finger nearer the proximal end of the baton, and the thumb and forefinger nearer the distal end of the baton. In operation, the user may hold the baton at or near the center of the outer segment.

[0006] When swinging a baton, it may slip forward to some degree in the user's hand. To address this problem, U.S. Patent No. 5,919,093 (noted above) provides a formed grip for a baton that gives an excellent handhold on the baton. Some manufactures have provided less effective means of providing a friction hold. However, even with such textured handles, the user must still grasp the baton nearer to the center of the outer segment to insure a proper grip so that if the baton slips in the user's hand, it will not completely slip out of the hand. As a result, a

substantial portion of the lower segment of batons is often unused during the swing, thus underutilizing the full lever arm potential of the baton. While this is not a serious problem with longer batons, the loss of the lever arm becomes more tangible with smaller batons. The "lost length" can be equated with a reduction in the moment arm in a lever, and further equates to a substantial loss of force when the baton is swung.

[0007] It is therefore desirable to have a baton that can be grasped closer to or at its proximal end to provide the user with greater strike force without the baton slipping relative to the user's hand. It is also desirable to have a baton which when grasped provides a point of pivot at or about the little, or "pinky", finger, instead of at or near the point of placement of the thumb and forefinger, such that a greater strike impact can be imparted with a smaller baton.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0008] In accordance with the present invention, a leveraged baton cap, comprising an end knob, a tapered neck portion, and means for attachment to a baton are provided to allow the user to grasp a baton at its most proximal end point. In a preferred embodiment, the end knob of the leveraged baton cap is generally hemispheric in shape, the proximal end being rounded, the distal end being formed into a generally hyperbolic, or hour glass, shaped neck joining a connection segment for attachment to a baton. In a preferred embodiment, the end knob and generally hyperbolic neck are attached to a baton with a generally cylindrical connection segment having internal threadings that cooperatively engage a typical baton having an externally threaded proximal end segment.

[0009] In a preferred embodiment, the generally hemispheric knob comprises a proximal end and a distal end, the proximal end may be somewhat flattened. In another embodiment, the hemispheric knob is detachable such that knob ends having different shapes, or ends having

means to attach an emblem or medallion, can be attached to the leveraged end cap. In a further embodiment, a one piece leveraged end cap is provided defining means to receive a medallion, seal or other decorative element.

[0010] Advantageously, the baton cap is made such that it can be sold independently of the baton and is easily and removably attached to a baton, such as by the use of cooperative threads matching those on most commercially available batons. In this manner, baton owners need not purchase new batons to take advantage of the useful and novel improvements of the present invention. Purchase of the baton cap can be made in locations that sell police and security personnel accessories such that end caps can be easily located and quickly assembled onto the baton.

[0011] In the use of the baton cap of the present invention, the user attaches the baton cap to a baton and places his hand at the base of the baton such that his little, or “pinky” finger is wrapped about the neck of end cap such that a better grip on the baton grip position is achieved, which grip position is advantageously located at a lower position on the baton, i.e. closer to the end cap. The wrapping of the finger about the baton cap permits the user to properly position the baton for use and to lock the baton in position for use without fear of slippage, as will be explained below. Further, the baton held in this manner can now pivot about the position of the little finger, due to the smaller diameter of the baton cap creating a pivot point, giving an increased lever arm. The length of the lever arm in this position not only includes the length of the grip portion of the baton, but also includes the length of the grip portion covered by almost the entire length of the user’s hand as well. Further, the positioning of the hand in this manner, along with the extension of the hemispherical portion of the end cap beyond the location of the hand on the baton, provides hand protection against inadvertently striking of an object through the end of the swing. The user can then use the baton in the usual manner with the added

advantage of action found in longer batons.

[0012] The features of the present invention which are believed to be novel are set forth with particularity in the appended claims. The invention, together with further objects and advantages thereof, may best be understood by reference to the following description in conjunction with the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0013] Figure 1 is a perspective view of a fully open baton incorporating the leverage cap of the present invention, showing a first retracted position in phantom lines;

[0014] Figure 2 is an enlarged perspective view of the leverage cap of the area shown in Fig. 1, showing gripping of the baton by the last two fingers of the user's hand;

[0015] Figure 3 is an exploded perspective view of a baton showing the leverage cap of the present invention and a typical known end cap shown in phantom view; and

[0016] Figure 4 is a perspective view of another embodiment of the leverage cap of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

[0017] While the present invention is susceptible of embodiment in various forms, there is shown in the drawings a number of presently preferred embodiments that are discussed in greater detail hereafter. It should be understood that the present disclosure is to be considered as an exemplification of the present invention, and is not intended to limit the invention to the specific embodiments illustrated.

[0018] Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 shows a typical baton 10, which may be similar to a number of batons made by Armament Systems and Procedures, Inc., assignee of the

present invention, which batons are described in U.S. patent numbers 5,110,375, 5,149,092, 5,348,297, 5,356,139, 5,645,276 and 5,919,093, and are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety. As shown in Figure 3, the baton 10 may include three segments, namely an outer segment 20, a middle segment 28, and a third or end segment 30. The outer segment 20 has a proximal end 22 having external threads 24 for receiving a leveraged end cap 26 of the present invention. The leveraged end cap 26 replaces the known end cap 25, which is a standard component of commercially available batons.

[0019] The baton 10 further comprises a tip 34, which is preferably removable, and segment locking means 32. Each of these elements are known and described in detail in the U.S. Patents noted above. A gasket 35 is provided to permit a sealing and well-seated relationship between the baton 10 and the leverage end cap 26 of the present invention. Figure 3 shows assembly of a baton 10 components including details regarding replacement of the known end cap 25 with the leveraged end cap 26 of the present invention. Details of the assembly of baton 10 can be found in the above-cited U.S. Patents.

[0020] Referring back to Figure 1, a baton 10 is shown in a first or retracted position 10a in phantom lines, and in a second or extended position in solid lines. A leverage end cap 26 is attached to the baton 10 by rotatably connecting the internal threads 27 of the end cap to the external threads 24 of the baton.

[0021] Referring now to Figures 1-3, the end cap 26 includes a knob portion 26a, a neck portion 26b and a connection segment 26c. The knob portion 26a is generally rounded to provide a comfortable end segment to the baton 10 when gripped by the user. In this way, the user is provided with a smooth end, which is less likely to cause pain or injury if the user accidentally collides therewith. It will be understood that various shapes of the knob 26a can be adopted without departing from the novel scope of the present invention. In the embodiment shown in

Figure 2, the knob 26a may include flattened surface 26d. In a further embodiment, shown in Figure 4, end cap 36 includes means, such as cut-out or indentation 38, into which a medallion or seal 40 can be placed for decorative purposes.

[0022] Knob 26a permits a user's hand 40 to grasp the baton at a location more proximal or lower down along the baton 10 than is possible with batons not utilizing a leverage end cap 26. As shown in Figure 2, the little finger, or pinky, P of the user is placed such that it rests within the double concave or "hour-glass" shaped neck.

[0023] Preferably, the end cap 26 can be made of the same or similar materials as the baton 10 and/or known cap 25. Alternatively, it can be formed from other metals, plastics or other materials without departing from the novel scope of the present invention. Further, end cap 26 can be made in a color to match the baton 10, or can have any color suited to match either uniforms or a preferred color scheme without departing from the novel scope of the present invention.

[0024] Initially, a commercially-available baton is obtained. Next, the standard or known end cap 25 is removed by rotating it such that the threads of the baton disengage from the threads of the end cap. The leveraged end cap 26 is then secured to the end of the baton by rotating it to engage the threads. It will be understood that a user may remove leveraged end cap 26 from baton 10 when desired by easily unscrewing cap 26 and, if desired, replacing cap 25.

[0025] In operation, the user, after attaching the leveraged end cap 26, can grasp the baton at a lower position 42 on the outer segment 20, such that a greater lever arm is created, thus enhancing striking power. The user places his little finger, or pinky, P within the hour-glass shaped neck portion 26b such that a positive grip is established. In this hand position, the user establishes a striking power similar to a longer baton, while maintaining control and having the desirable convenience of using a smaller baton.

[0026] In this position, the baton 10 pivots at the location of the little finger P providing better control of the baton, thus increasing the lever arm of the baton by a length approximately equal to about one “hand-width.” Further, as the baton 10 is held such that its proximal end 22 is at or above the wrist 44 of the user 40, a quicker whip like action can be made with the baton, providing striking power similar to that of a longer baton.

[0027] Although an illustrative embodiment of the invention has been shown and described, it is to be understood that various modifications and substitutions may be made by those skilled in the art without departing from the novel spirit and scope of the invention.